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ABSTRACT

This document reports on allocations for research projects in higher education in Sweden. Tables give: (1) funds allocated to research and development in higher education by project, showing costs for 1973-74, planned costs for 1974-75, and the allotment recommended for fiscal year 1975-76; (2) costs of nine projects completed in 1974; (3) a list of university departments involved in research projects financed by UKA and dealing with issues in higher education giving funds allocated; and (4) funds allocated to the different university departments involved in research during 1972-73 and 1974-75. (Author/KE)

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1974:5

Research into higher education

From the UKÄ budget proposal for 1975–1976

The research projects which have been allocated between 15 and 20 % of the funds set aside for educational research and development have provided information to aid long term planning as well as short term planning and development activities. These aims can be achieved through studies of fundamental questions within higher education Research on questions of this kind has been extremely limited in Sweden up to now. If research into higher education is to yield good results, it is important that it is carriedout in close contact with international research in the same field.

Work is in progress on formulating and making systematic inventory of problems within higher education with the aim of improving the basic data available for planning and selecting research projects. For specific problem areas reviews of research are being made which present results and define approaches to the problems. These reviews provide material for symposia and conferences involving research workers, teachers, planning authorities, students and other interested parties. During 1972 and 1973 in connection with meetings and conferences of this sort about ten reviews of different fields or records of discussions concerning different subproblems within the higher education sector were compiled.

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It would seem that analysis of problems in the way described here with reviews of research and the results of research projects forming the basis of discussion between research workers, teachers, and planning authorities could also be of importance as a method of communicating results and carrying out in-service training within the education sector. In the opinion of UKÄ one of the main tasks within research and development in higher education is to involve not only different groups of personnel within the higher education sector in the analysis and definition of problems but also students and spokesmen for potential students from different areas of industry and commerce.

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Research projects being carried out for UKÄ have been subdivided to facilitate planning and application of results. At present the subdivision is into four different problem areas. All of the issues of current interest concerning research in the higher education sector can, in principle, be assigned to one of these problem areas.

The table below shows how funds allocated to research and development in higher education have been allotted to different research projects. The table shows actual costs for 1973/1974, planned costs for the fiscal year 1974/1975 and the allotment recommended for the fiscal year 1975/1976.

Table. Allotment of funds allocated to research and development concerning higher education for the fiscal years 1973/74 - 1975/76 (Sw cr. 1000).

Programme (Problem area)	Actual costs 1973/74	%	Funds allotted 1974/75	%	Proposal 1975/76	%
The structure of higher education and its role in society	262	16	609	34	650	29,5
The organization and working patterns of teaching	580	35	493	27	650	29,5
Evaluation: function and result control	659	40	493	27	650	29,5
Development of the R & D organization	149	9	205	12	250	11,5
Total	1 650	100	1 800	100	2 200	100

During 1973--1974 UKÄ's programme of research concerning the university sector comprised 18 different projects at different departments of behavioural or social science. Nine projects were completed in that year; they are listed in the table p 3. The results will be presented during 1974 and at the beginning of 1975 both in the form of research reports which will include a final report and a review of the project's work and also in information bulletins on completed projects. Results are also presented verbally at information meetings arranged by UKÄ. At these meetings the project leader can present specific conclusions and recommend new courses of action and these conclusions and recommendations can be discussed.

Project title Project leader	Start End	Total cost (Sw.cr. 1000)	Number of reports	Reported in bulletin no.
The educational content of a university subject (Himmelstrand)	1971–74	165	7	71:9
Internal and external communication regarding higher education (Edfr dt)	1970–74	337	10	71:6
Learning and study skills (Marton)	1971–74	926	15	71:3 72:10
University studies in teams (Marton)	1971–74	226	5	71:10 72:14
The treatment of students with adjustment problems (Duresman)	1971–74	180	20	72:6
The university environment, efficiency in studies and political activity (Karlsson)	1969–74	492	5	72:1
Evaluation of university courses directed to particular professions (Bäckström)	1972–74	81	1	
The conditions and administration of research and research education (Husén)	1973–74	25	1	
A study of administrative functions at university departments (Janson-Magnusson)	1973–74	139	1	

During the fiscal year 1974--1975 the following university departments were involved in research projects financed by UKÄ and dealing with issues in higher education.

University	Department	No. of projects	Funds allocated (Sw.cr. 1000)
Gothenburg	Political Economy	1	120
	Education	2	166
	Psychology	1	110
	Sociology	1	40
Lund	Economic History	1	50
	History	1	107
	Political Economy	1	30
	Education	2	150
	Sociology	1	69
Stockholm	International Education	1	81
	Psychology	1	35
	Sociology	1	110
Umeå	Business Economics	1	120
	Geography	1	40
	Education	2	240
	Political Science	1	60
Uppsala	Education	1	67
Total		20	1 595
Planning, information, etc.			205
Total			1 800

How funds were allocated to the different university departments involved in research during 1972--1973 and 1974--1975 is shown in the following table:

Subject	1972/73			1974/75		
	no. of projects	Sw.cr. 1000	%	no. of projects	Sw.cr. 1000	%
Economic History				1	50	3
Business Economics	1	60	4	1	120	8
Geography				1	40	3
History				1	107	7
Political Economy				2	150	9
Education	9	875	60	8	704	44
Psychology	2	160	11	2	145	9
Sociology	4	355	25	3	219	13
Political Science				1	60	4
	16	1 450	100	20	1 595	100

The number of university subjects involved in these research projects has more than doubled in two years (in 1972 four subjects were involved, in 1974 nine).

A more detailed list of projects which also contains descriptions of newly started projects can be found in this series Educational Development 1974:3.

During the fiscal year 1973--1974 six new projects were initiated. Costs for these projects were 290, 000 Sw.cr which was 19 % of the total. The research programme for 1974--1975 will contain three new projects and six planning projects in addition. The total cost of these will be 560, 000 Sw.cr., 31 % of the funds allocated to research and development in the fiscal year. During 1975--1976 it is estimated that about the same proportion of funds will be allocated to new projects. This will leave resources for the limited expansion of certain projects which has been allowed for in existing plans.

Eskil Björklund
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